

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **HAMILTON TO OFFER NEW RELAY SERVICE FEATURE**

LINCOLN – Hamilton Telecommunications, a Nebraska firm based in Aurora, will add a new feature to its Nebraska relay service for speech and hearing impaired persons.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission recently approved an addendum to its contract with Hamilton for the operation of the relay service. CapTel permits voice recognition technology to be translated into print. The relay service provides an operator to convert messages from voice to print or vice versa. CapTel will permit Hamilton to almost immediately convert voice into text messages rather than depend on a relay operator.

Commissioner Rod Johnson of Sutton, whose PSC Fourth District encompasses Hamilton County, said the telecommunications company has done a good job of staying up with new technologies in providing relay services. “We appreciate the fact that Hamilton continues to try to keep pace with the latest technologies and offer these technologies to their customers,” Johnson said.

Hamilton currently operates the Nebraska Relay Service on a three-year contract which will expire on June 30, 2005. Hamilton has been the sole operator of the Nebraska Relay Service in the 14 years since its inception in January 1991.

Nebraskans provide financial support for the relay program with a monthly surcharge of seven cents on local telephone and wireless bills.

Johnson said Hamilton, which operates relay services in six other states and the District of Columbia as well as Nebraska, has carved a niche for itself among some of the major national companies. “You generally think of the big companies rather than a small Nebraska telephone company in providing services on this scale. Hamilton is a major player in the relay services market.”

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Send to: All

Note: Release needs to be coordinated with Hamilton through Beth Slough. She will call John B. a day before Hamilton is ready to release its story. That could be as early as this Friday.

Send for approval to: Steve Stovall, Gene Hand, and Rod Johnson.